

publish his findings. Much of this antagonism is doubtless irrational. But not all critics are so influenced by unconscious motives. Strong and as yet uncontroverted objections can be made against the theory of psycho-analysis, as put forward by Freud and his followers.

This book serves as a reminder of one of the difficulties of those who, themselves unanalysed, would like to become familiar with the present theory and practice of the analysts as a preliminary to examining the value of these for their own purposes. No authoritative and accepted corpus of psycho-analysis is available. Schools in London, Vienna, and Chicago put forth differing opinions on matters which might be regarded as fundamental; papers are no sooner published than their conclusions are found to be superseded or modified; and this, however eloquent of activity, makes it also impossible for the inquirer to know what view psychoanalysts hold at the moment. Consequently, he must either keep out of the matter and ignorantly accept some by no means diffident claims, or he can examine critically the method while uncertain as to the conclusions. Such a book as that of Nunberg offers a fairly complete survey of psycho-analysis as it is in Vienna. These new introductory Lectures are a persuasively written, lucid and candid account of the same field for the non-specialist reader. But they must not be taken for a survey of psycho-analysis as it is in London, where Melanie Klein has become the most important influence in its development. It is necessary, therefore, in reading this new book by Freud, to remember that on some of the most important points its views are not those of our Freudians.

The seven lectures deal with dreams, the occult, the anatomy of the mental personality, anxiety, the psychology of woman and some general matters including *Weltanschauung*.

Those who read the book will find it an attractive, well-translated exposition, written with authority, but without arrogance, and clearly by one who is anxious for truth rather than triumph. It is, however, not on the arguments here so ably presented, but

on the clinical data and the method of their collection that judgment of psycho-analysis as a theory can be based.

A. J. LEWIS.

SEX HORMONES

Robson, J. M., M.D., B.Sc. *Recent Advances in Sex and Reproductive Physiology*. London, 1934. J. and A. Churchill Ltd. Pp. 249. Price 12s. 6d.

THIS work is a critical survey of the data that have lately been accumulated in the field of sex physiology, particularly on the subject of sex hormones in relation to the female reproductive cycle. For the general reader, the study of this subject is complicated, first by the fact that it is now passing through a phase of very rapid growth; secondly, by the fact that the relevant data are scattered through innumerable and not always easily accessible periodicals; and thirdly, and not least important, because different workers, holding conflicting views about the interpretation of the same results, have coined different names for what are probably the same substances and phenomena. It is no small achievement to have made order out of this chaos and to have reduced the truly enormous volume of existing material to the manageable length of under 250 pages. Dr. Robson does more, however, than arrange and summarize the facts: he succeeds also in giving an extremely well-balanced account of the controversies to which they have given rise and a useful, unexaggerated statement of their application in clinical medicine.

The only significant omission we have been able to find is in connection with vitamin E as a dietetic anti-sterility factor. Dr. Robson records the work of Evans and Bishop, which showed that in vitamin E deficient rats the foetuses died on or about the thirteenth day and by the twentieth were completely reabsorbed, but makes no reference to Vogt-Möller's application of these results to the treatment of habitual abortion in the human female. Also he

mentions, but does not stress, the work on placental hormones carried out by J. B. Collip at Toronto. There is room, however, for legitimate differences of opinion about the identity of the factors contained in Collip's placental extract (emmenin).

Among the subjects Dr. Robson deals with, the following may be selected for special mention: the nature of the sex cycle; the function of oestrin; the hormones of the corpus luteum; the significance of menst-

ation; pituitary hormones in relation to ovarian activity; ovulation and fertility in primates; the influences of hormones on the mammary gland; and the uses of sex hormones in medical practice.

Appended to each chapter there is a useful list of references, and at the end of the work there are two indexes, one of authors and the other of subjects. The illustrations are excellent and help to elucidate the text.

E. M. HOLMES.



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